

East & Southern Africa

East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop

The East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop took place in Nairobi on 16 and 17 August under the theme "Technology and Enabling Frameworks as Tools towards Food Security".

Following the formal opening by Dr. Johnson Irungu Waitthaka, Director of Agriculture Crop Management, the plenary session covered:

- Modern Agriculture: Food for All, by Doug Nelson of CropLife America
- Anti-Counterfeiting in the Region, by Rudolf Guyer
- Herbicide Resistance Management, by Ivo Brants
- The Development and Implementation of GHS in Zambia, by Constantino Mwembela

This was followed by "Success Stories" covering IPM / Responsible Use, Container Management and Anti-Counterfeiting.

For the Regulatory Group, last year, Dr. Bernhard Johnen introduced the concept of Principles of Regulation and this was rolled out to this Region in August last year at the Dar Es Salaam meeting. As a continuation to this process we focused on "Chemical Equivalence" and this year we conducted a workshop covering the subject, "Application of Equivalence". We were extremely fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Woods, a foremost authority in this field to facilitate this event.

On day 2, the morning started with Manon Dohmen and Les Hillowitz updating the group on the CleanFARMS Project and the ASP.

This was followed by Ali Mohd Ali who took us through the "Stewardship Vision 2020" programme. IFDC followed with a presentation on Input Market Development.

Herman Louw showed the way with new approaches to training and how this contributes towards improved Stewardship. Ali continued and brought everyone up-to-date on CropLife's latest approach on Communications.

The rest of the day was devoted to Association Management facilitated by Manon Dohmen.

Meanwhile in the adjoining room the Regulatory Group were working under the watchful eye of Bernard and Tom.

All in all, an excellent and well-rounded workshop.



Dr. Johnson Irungu Waitthaka, Director of Agriculture Crop Management undertaking the formal opening of the meeting



A.K. Otieno, Chairman of CropLife Kenya welcoming the meeting



In recognition of the "success stories" awards were made to: From L-R CropLife Zambia, CropLife Malawi, CropLife Madagascar, CropLife Mauritius, CropLife Uganda and CropLife Kenya



Ivo Brants



Left: Doug Nelson



Above: Xavier Schmid and Tom Woods in discussion



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Roll-out of the Anti-Counterfeiting training programme in East Africa



Group Photo—Kampala—Uganda



Mombasa—Kenya



Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania

The roll-out of the Anti-Counterfeiting training programme in East Africa took place the week of 29 August. The programme kicked off in Kampala, followed by Mombasa then in Dar es Salaam.

At all three trainings participants comprised of customs officers, pesticide inspectors and the police. Press coverage was very prominent more particularly in Uganda and Tanzania. In Uganda we received TV coverage in the form of an interview. In Uganda we had 42 participants, in both Kenya and Tanzania, 20 each.

By all accounts the intervention was well appreciated and will contribute to our campaign in reducing counterfeit products in the market.

Resulting from the Islamic holiday in Kenya on Wednesday 1st September the opportunity was taken to develop the capacity of both Perry Ngoma and Evelyn Lusenaka. Both are now capable of taking the anti-counterfeiting training further.



Regional Harmonisation

On 14 July the Council of Ministers signed off on the harmonized guidelines for the registration of CPP's. Most of the inputs submitted by CLI / CLAME have been included in the document. Printed copies of the guideline will be available shortly.

A workshop covering the roll-out / implementation of the guidelines will take place in Gaborone 19 – 21 September.

The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade constitutes the framework for regional cooperation in SPS matters in SADC. This annex is closely linked to the WTO SPS Agreement to which the Member States are party.

The SADC Secretariat in conjunction with Member States have developed four sets of Guidelines, to assist Member States improve their capacity to comply with SPS measures and international standards. A significant milestone towards this objective was reached when these regional guidelines were approved at the Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, held on 14th July in Gaborone. The Guidelines covering Plant Protection Products are as follows:

Regional Guidelines for the Regulation of Plant Protection Products:

These Guidelines provide advice on the legislative framework for ensuring that only quality plant protection products are manufactured, imported and exported from a country. The Guidelines outline the desirable procedure for registration of Plant Protection Products, compliance with MRL's, as well as responsibilities of national governments and product manufacturers.

The importance of implementing these guidelines without delay was also highlighted during the meeting. As a next step, it was agreed that each SADC Member State needs to identify a specific Ministry / Institution that will be the 'focal institution' and lead the process of bringing together all the relevant stakeholders and collectively pursue the objectives outlined in the Guidelines.



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CropLife Uganda

During the last period CropLife Uganda has been very active with both Stewardship and Anti-Counterfeiting activities.

Baseline Survey on Agricultural NGO's

The Secretariat conducted a three day survey to identify the various "agricultural" NGO's operating in the Gulu region with the purpose of understanding their briefs and to introduce CropLife Uganda. This will assist greatly in seeking partners for their responsible use promotion.

Agricultural Trade Show – Jinja

The theme of the show was "Agriculture Modernization for Transformation" at which CropLife Uganda focused on Responsible Use. The association received an award for recognition.

Anti-Counterfeiting Stakeholder Meeting

On 4 August, CropLife Uganda sponsored a follow-up meeting covering the seven resolutions on anti-counterfeiting that had been discussed with the former Minister, Hon Hope Mwesigwe on 18 June 2009.

Interactive discussions followed with the new ministers in place. The conclusions reached will now be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture with a request for a follow-up meeting.

Establishment of a Poison Information Centre

On 23 August a meeting took place with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to develop a concept paper on how to lobby for the funding for the establishment of a poison information centre. At the conclusion of the discussions it was recommended that a committee comprising of MAAIF, Government Chemists and the Ministry of Health take this further and report back on 27 September.

At the conclusion of this meeting the opportunity was taken by the Chairman of CropLife Uganda to discuss the introduction of a "levy system" with both the Commissioner and Permanent Secretary of MAAIF. This will now be followed by a draft proposal prepared jointly by the Commissioner and the CropLife Uganda team.

Principles of Regulation

Following the Hub & Regulatory meeting in Nairobi, the opportunity was taken for the CLAME Team together with key stakeholders to undergo the training on the Principles of Regulation, facilitated by Dr. Bernhard Johnen.



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West & Central Africa

CropLife Cameroon: IPM Training



Mrs. G. Etoundi the training facilitator (above)

Below Left : classroom session

Below Right: group photo with the participants
(Courtesy: CropLife Cameroon)

On 25 – 26 August, CropLife Cameroon conducted IPM training for vegetable producers in Bertoua.

Participants numbered 41 while the sessions were aimed at providing tools and strengthening the capacity of those involved in vegetable production on the following topics:

- Basics on CPPs (mode of action and types of formulation, packaging and labeling)
- Safe handling (transport, storage...), Responsible Use, risks when misusing CPPs
- IPM Principles and IPM practices in vegetable production
- Counterfeit and Illegal CPPs
- Pesticide Legislation/Regulations in Cameroon
- Sprayers: types, calibration and maintenance

All sessions were organized under the framework of the partnership between CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), and facilitated by the MINADER team comprising of Mrs. Gisèle Etoundi and colleagues as well as trainers from CropLife Cameroon.



CropLife Mali: Agro-dealer Training

On 1 - 3 August CropLife Mali organized agro-dealer training in Niono.

Participants included 21 agro-dealers, all members of the Niono Agro-dealers Association

The objective of the training was to provide knowledge and tools to participants for day to day activities in their retailing outlets. The following topics were covered:

- Basics on pesticides
- Choosing and applying pesticides
- Pesticide poisoning
- Transport and storage
- Pesticide Legislation/Regulations in Mali

18 participants passed the post evaluation test and were awarded certificates.

This intervention was organized through a joint project comprising CNFA, Ministry of Agriculture and CropLife Mali.

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO – Rice Seminar



Participants and officials at the Rice seminar.

Photo Courtesy CropLife Côte d'Ivoire



On 29 – 30 July in Bassam, and 4 August in Abidjan 150 participants from the office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, Africa Rice institute, famers and farmers' organizations involved in rice seed production, programs for agricultural productivity, food policies and security, research services, chambers of Commerce, Agriculture banks, and Industry, met for two rice seminars.

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire represented by the Executive Secretary actively participated at both events.

The traditional importance of rice in the diets of both the rural and urban communities was highlighted together with its strategic position in the economy of the country. The availability of rice varieties adapted to the local climatic and environmental conditions for high yields and nutritional qualities was covered. This places emphasis on the need to develop and support rice production in the country, as was indicated in the mission of the national rice development strategy (Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Riziculture, SNDR) for self-sufficiency.

Overall both seminars called for:

- The promotion and securing of certified seeds
- The promotion of productivity of rice production systems
- The promotion of quality rice for "rice quality"

The programme, worth of \$US 470 million, calls for intensification and the need for modern technologies, including the use of CPP's, to meet the challenges, thus the implication of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and its member companies.

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North Africa Middle East

Improving Water Productivity in Egypt

Egyptian government agencies will work with ICARDA and Australian partners in a renewed effort to develop, test and promote new technologies to increase water productivity in agriculture. Research priorities and action plans were developed during the 'On-farm water use efficiency knowledge exchange workshop' held in Cairo, 26-29 July.

The workshop, inaugurated by H.E. Salah Yousef Farag, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, brought together more than 60 R&D experts, administrators and government officials. The participants included Dr Salah Abdel-Moamen, President of Egypt's Agricultural Research Center (ARC); H.E. Stephanie Shwabsky, the Australian Ambassador to Egypt; Dr Mahmoud Solh, ICARDA Director General; and Prof Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission. The workshop included a field trip to newly reclaimed land in the Noubaria region, to better understand current water management practices and farmers' needs and perspectives on irrigation.

Future efforts will focus on three production systems: the fertile 'old lands' in the Nile Delta, reclaimed and salt-affected areas in the Delta, and 'new lands' in low-rainfall areas, where large-scale irrigation schemes are being implemented. Discussions at the workshop helped share and refine ideas for each of these systems. Potential interventions, knowledge gaps, capacity development needs and potential implementation partners have been identified for each system



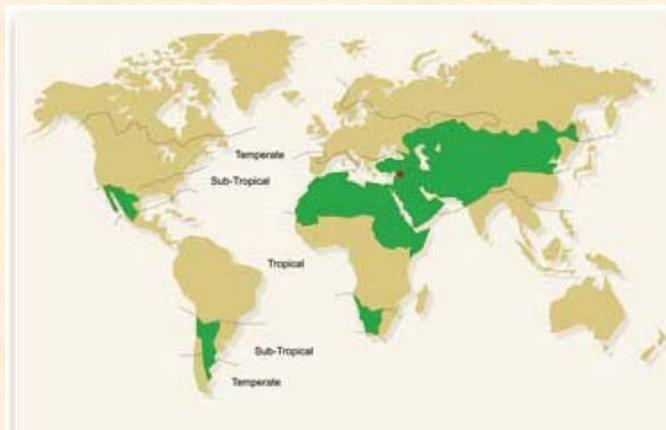
H.E. Salah Yousef Farag, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation



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Stephanie Shwabsky, the Australian Ambassador to Egypt



Prof Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission



Orchard on reclaimed land in Noubaria region, Egypt: water-efficient technologies are being successfully used for field crops as well as horticulture

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EU to report on considering lifting the ban on Egyptian seeds after E.coli scare

A European Union delegation, which just wrapped up a visit to Egypt to discuss lifting the ban on Egyptian seeds after charges that they are infected with E.coli, is on its way back to Europe to turn around a report in ten days.

Sherif El-Beltagy, chairman of the Egyptian Agricultural Export Council spoke to Ahram Online of the possibilities of ending the dispute that "We are optimistic of the EU's visit and I think the report will be positive."

El-Beltagy stated that the national reports from agricultural and health authorities on seeds were good and the delegation found them acceptable.

"Currently, the export of Egyptian seeds to the EU is stopped, but when the Ukraine lifts the ban, the European countries will follow," El-Beltagy postulated.

On Wednesday the Ukrainian government said it will lift the ban on the import of Egyptian vegetables and seeds it placed after Egypt was accused of being the source of June's deadly E. coli outbreak in Europe.

The Ukraine officially informed Egypt of its decision on Wednesday, giving rise to hopes that the Europe-wide ban on 15 Egyptian sprouting seeds and beans, set for reconsideration at the end of October, can be lifted sooner.

Bernardino León, the EU's special representative for the southern Mediterranean region, had said at a press conference held at the EU headquarters to Egypt on 10 August, 2011 that the European Union will resume imports and increase orders for Egyptian produce if it finds a solution to the current dispute over the alleged E. coli infection.

In July the European Union temporarily banned the import of certain seeds from Egypt until October after some were linked to a deadly E.coli outbreak in Germany and France.

Member states, says the EU, must ensure that all "seeds imported from one Egyptian exporter between 2009 and 2011 are withdrawn from the market, sampled and destroyed"



Sherif El-Beltagy, chairman of the Egyptian Agricultural Export Council



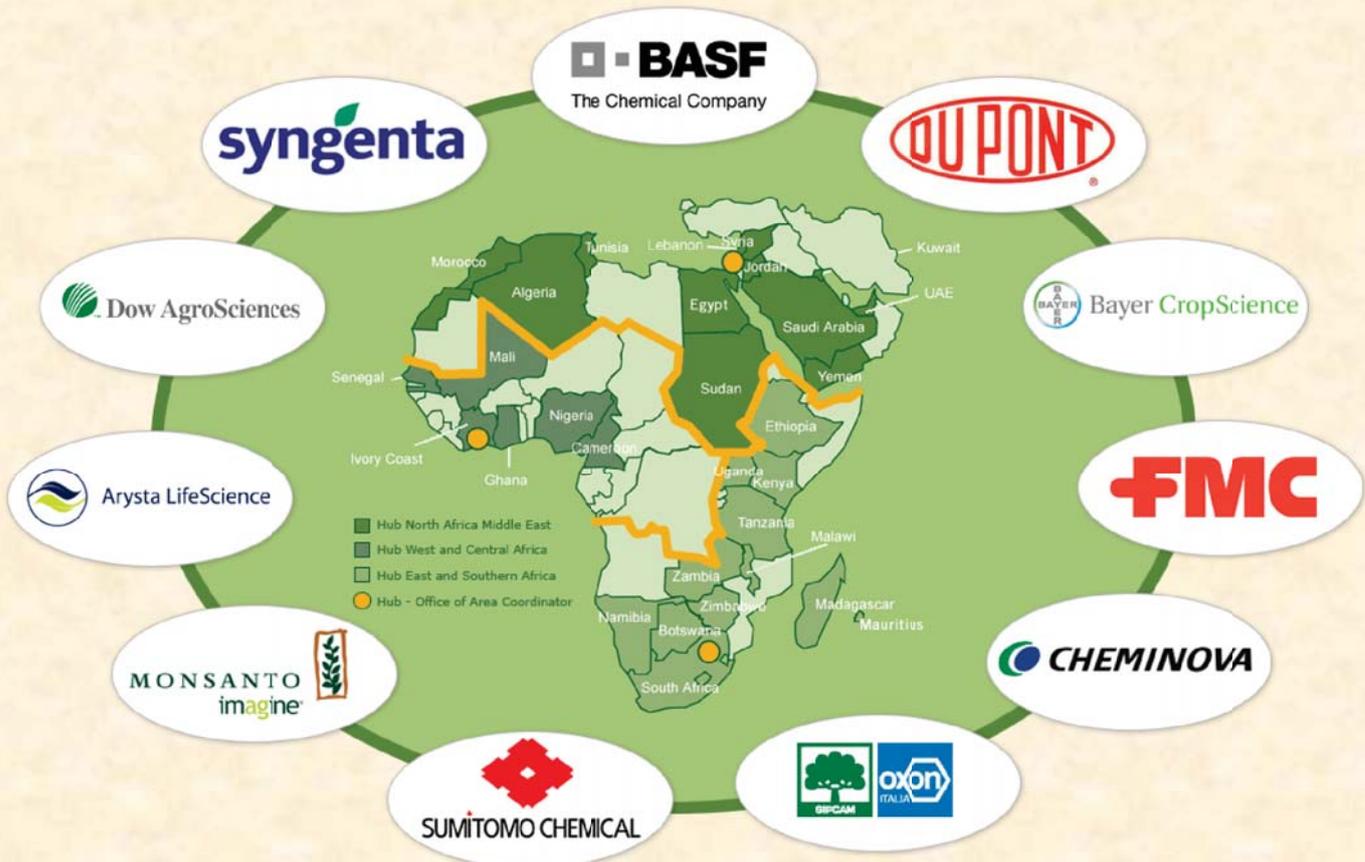
Photos courtesy of AHRAM

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Meeting of the RRC 3-2011 in Monheim	Sep 12-13
Clean Farm Study Tour in Ghana	Sep 12-15
SADC Regional Stakeholder Meeting on the roll-out of Regulatory Harmonization	Sept 19-21
Global Container Management Project Team Meeting in Lyon	Sept 20-22
Obsolete Stocks Project Team Meeting in Lyon	Sep 23
Anti Counterfeit training for Ghana customs and police officers	Sept 27-28
CropLife Malawi - Special General Meeting	Oct 5
Global Stewardship Workshop Berlin	Oct 18-19
Hub and Regulatory meeting in Beirut	Oct 25-26
Board Meeting (ExCo 3-3011) in Paris	Nov 7/8
Interpol Reg. IP Capacity building workshop: Ouagadougou, B. Faso	Nov 14-18.



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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